vertebrae; said implant having upper and lower walls extending between anterior and posterior ends of the implant and a posterior wall connecting the upper and lower walls;

b) a post mounted in said posterior wall and extending to near the anterior end of said implant;

c) an expansion member operably coupled with said post and engaging said upper and lower walls for expanding an anterior spacing between said upper and lower walls, so as to operably urge said implant upper and lower walls into a predetermined non parallel angle relative to one another and so as produce a desired alignment of the adjacent vertebrae;

C1

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d) a cover assembly having upper and lower support surfaces for supporting an anterior region of the adjacent vertebrae; and

e) a fastener mechanism operably securing said cover assembly and said expansion member to said implant during use.

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33. An apparatus for stabilizing adjacent vertebrae of a spine by promotion of bone fusion between the adjacent

C2

vertebrae, said apparatus comprising:

a) an implant for implanting between a pair of adjacent vertebrae, said implant adapted to promote bone growth between the adjacent vertebrae;

b) an expansion cap coupled with said implant for expanding opposite sides of an anterior end of said implant to a predetermined spacing between the sides to provide a desired alignment of the adjacent vertebrae; and

C2 Cancl

c) an implant end cover operably positioned anterior of said implant and operably secured to said implant; said cover including upper and lower support surfaces sized and shaped to engage and operably support an anterior region of both of said adjacent vertebrae.

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40. In an implant that in use is located between adjacent vertebrae for stabilizing such vertebrae and wherein the implant has upper and lower walls joined by a posterior wall, the improvement comprising:

C3

a) a post mounted in said posterior wall and extending to near an interior end of said implant; and

b) an anterior expansion member coupled to said post and adapted to operably expand an anterior spacing between said upper and lower walls, as said expansion member moves posteriorly along said post during installation; said expansion member being sized and shaped to remain in contact with said upper and lower walls in close proximity to anterior ends of said upper and lower walls, so as to provide support to said anterior ends during usage.

C3 Cont

The following are the amended claims marked to show changes with additions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by brackets.

31. (Amended) An apparatus for positionally stabilizing adjacent vertebrae of a spine by promotion of bone fusion between the adjacent vertebrae, said apparatus comprising:

a) an anteriorly expandable implant adapted to promote bone growth between the adjacent vertebrae; said implant having upper and lower walls extending between anterior and posterior ends of the implant and a posterior wall connecting the upper and lower walls;

b) a post mounted in said posterior wall and extending to near the anterior end of said implant;

c) an expansion member operably coupled with said post and engaging said upper and lower walls for expanding an anterior spacing between said upper and lower walls, so as to operably urge said implant upper and lower walls into a predetermined non parallel angle relative to one another and so as produce a desired alignment of the adjacent vertebrae;

d) a cover assembly having upper and lower support surfaces for supporting an anterior region of the adjacent vertebrae; and

e) a fastener mechanism operably securing said cover assembly and said expansion member to said implant during use.

33. (Amended) An apparatus for stabilizing adjacent vertebrae of a spine by promotion of bone fusion between the adjacent vertebrae, said apparatus comprising:

a) an implant for implanting between a pair of adjacent vertebrae, said implant adapted to promote bone growth between the adjacent

vertebrae;

b) an expansion cap coupled with said implant for expanding opposite sides of an anterior end of said implant to a predetermined spacing between the sides to provide a desired alignment of the adjacent vertebrae; and

c) an implant end cover operably positioned anterior of said implant and operably secured to said implant; said cover including upper and lower support surfaces sized and shaped to engage and [for] operably [engaging and] support [supporting] an anterior region of both of said adjacent vertebrae.

40. (Amended) In an implant that in use is located between adjacent vertebrae for stabilizing such vertebrae and wherein the implant has upper and lower walls joined by a posterior wall, the improvement comprising:

a) a post mounted in said posterior wall and extending to near an interior end of said implant; and

b) an anterior expansion member coupled to said post and adapted to operably expand an anterior spacing